

REMARKS

Claims 21-25 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 21-25 presently stand rejected.

Applicant filed Formal Drawings in the present application on June 14, 2000. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of the Formal Drawings in the next communication from the office.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to. Applicant amends the Abstract to remove any ambiguities.

Claim 25 is objected to because of informalities. Applicant amends the claims to remove any ambiguities.

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (4,994,658).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (4,994,658) in view of Ohwa et al. (5,850,079).

Analysis

Only claim 21 is in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

In the Office action, the Examiner submits that claim 21 is anticipated by Takahashi because Takashi discloses a carriage that moves to close and open a card transporting path as recited in claim 21.

Takahashi is directed to an optical card convey system. Specifically, a carriage 20 conveys a card C in the x-axis direction on a support structure 1. The card is conveyed in this

direction so that the light emitting and receiving unit 31 can perform reading and writing functions on the card C.

The system operates by placing a card C on the card setting portion 23 of the carriage 20 which is located at an initial position. The wire 15 is driven by the X-axis servo-motor 12 and the optical waveguide holder 33 is set to an initial position through the wire 46 driven by the Y-axis stepping motor 45. The carriage 20 moves after a first track of the card has been read, so that each successive track on the card is read. Alternatively, the X-axis servomotor 12 can be programmed to move the carriage so that a desired track is read in a desired order.

Turning back to the Examiner's comments, the Examiner states that the carriage "moves between the opening position...and the closing position". However, the shutter plate of the present invention doesn't just move to an opening and a closing position; the shutter plate of the present invention actually opens and closes the card transporting path.

Takahashi fails to *open and close a card transporting path*. This reference merely discloses a carriage that moves between two positions, but it does not open or close a card transporting path.

Applicant amends claim 21 to clarify this aspect of the present invention. Specifically, the body of claim 21 now clarifies that the shutter plate opens and closes an *entry* to a card transporting path. This amendment clarifies that the movement of the shutter plate actually closes off the opening into the path. Clearly, Takahashi merely shows a carriage that moves from a position which is capable of receiving a card, and a subsequent position for reading of the card. Thus, the carriage itself provides the card transporting path, whereas the shutter plate in

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the present invention does not convey the card - it merely opens and closes an opening for receiving the card.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 21.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 21, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

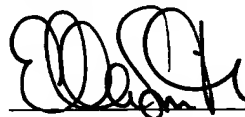
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

21. (Amended) A shutter opening/closing mechanism [with a shutter plate which is movable between a first position where a card transporting path is closed and a second position where said card transporting path is opened, said shutter opening/closing mechanism] comprising:

a shutter plate which opens and closes an entry to a card transporting path by moving between a first closing position for closing the entry to the card transporting path and a second opening position for opening the entry to the card transporting path;

a drive source for moving said shutter plate; and

a connecting member for connecting a drive force of said drive source to said shutter plate;

wherein [the] an opening/closing-side end face of said shutter plate is closed substantially parallel to said card transporting path at said closing position, and said opening/closing-side end face of said shutter plate is moved, by said drive source, substantially parallel to said card transporting path.

25. (Amended) The shutter opening/closing mechanism according to claim 21, further comprising a card trap member detection mechanism, wherein said mechanism includes a detecting part connected to said drive source, and a microswitch connected to said detecting part,

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wherein said shutter plate is prevented from moving into said closing position when a card trap member is detected, thereby ~~[prevening]~~ preventing said microswitch turning on.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

A card reader is provided with a card transporting mechanism [for a card reader in which] wherein the trailing end of a card as viewed in a card transporting direction is brought into contact with a first card engaging/holding member moving in a card transporting direction, and the card is transported by [said] the first card engaging/holding member[, said] . The card transporting mechanism [including] includes a carriage movable in the card transporting direction, [said] and the first card engaging/holding member [being] is mounted [on such] so that [said] the first card engaging/holding member is movable between a first position where [said] the first card engaging/holding member comes in contact with the trailing end of [said] the card and a second position where [said] the first card engaging/holding member does not [comes] come in contact with [said] the card.[, and a transportation drive member, for transporting the card, coupled to said first card engaging/holding member such that a position of said first card engaging/holding member changes in accordance with a moving direction of said transportation drive member, and when said card travels in a first direction, said first card engaging/holding member is located, by said transportation drive member, at a position where said first card engaging/holding member comes in contact with the trailing end face of said card, and said card is transported by moving said carriage.]